



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

JMS:TMG:ZIL:VH:MLL:kc
WF: 2170967
DJ: 207-82-1

*Special Litigation Section - PHB
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC 20530*

FEB 02 2011

Mr. Chris Stearns
Vice Chair
Seattle Human Rights Commission
810 Third Avenue
Suite 750
Seattle, WA 98104-1627

Dear Mr. Stearns:

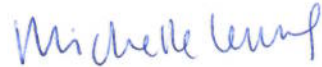
This is in response to your letter, dated January 10, 2011, to the Attorney General of the Department of Justice, in which you request that the Civil Rights Division conduct a pattern or practice investigation into Seattle Police Department's use of force, its policies, procedures, training, and other matters that may be necessary.

As you are aware, the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d. Together, these statutes allow the Department to seek equitable relief to remedy a pattern or practice of misconduct by law enforcement agencies, such as police departments. When a systemic pattern or practice of misconduct that violates the Constitution or federal law is determined to exist, we have the authority to initiate civil action against the jurisdiction in order to remedy the misconduct.

The Special Litigation Section is aware of the December 3, 2010 letter from the American Civil Liberties Union. We have also been in contact with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington, and are in the process of planning a trip to Seattle to begin talking to various community group leaders and Seattle public officials. We would like to invite you to participate in a meeting with community group leaders that will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. In the meantime, please feel free to send any information or documents to the above address that you believe would be helpful in assisting our evaluation of whether a pattern or practice investigation of the Seattle Police Department is warranted.

Thank you for writing to the Special Litigation Section. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department if we may be of assistance with this, or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Leung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle L. Leung
Attorney
Special Litigation Section



U.S. Department of Justice
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950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC 20530*

FEB 02 2011

Ms. Roslyn Solomon
Chair
Seattle Human Rights Commission
810 Third Avenue
Suite 750
Seattle, WA 98104-1627

Dear Ms. Solomon:

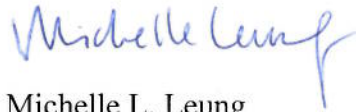
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Michelle L. Leung
Attorney
Special Litigation Section